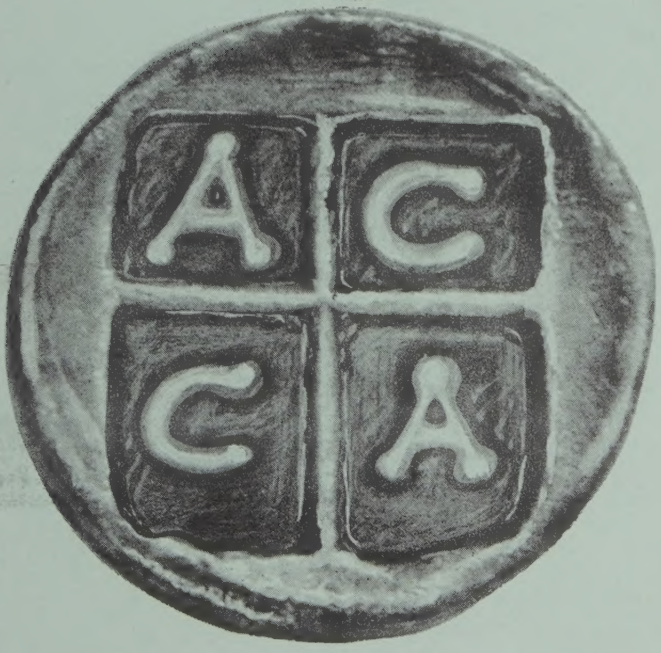

THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE

A PUBLICATION OF THE ANCIENT COIN CLUB OF AMERICA

JANUARY 1965

The "Voice of the Turtle" is the official publication of the Ancient Coin Club of America.

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All payments are to be made in advance of publication. Contract rates are not in effect. No commissions are paid or allowed.

Advertising is acceptable from all dealers, members and persons of good repute with ancient coins for sale. The seller guarentees the genuineness of his material.

The ACCA policy on restrikes, copies and related material prohibits acceptance of advertising for such material. Members or dealers handling restrikes or copies face loss of advertising privileges and expulsion from the club.

Because of the difficulty of accurately describing the condition of ancient coins, advertisers permit a five day return privilege.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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THE ANCIENT COIN CLUB OF AMERICA

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DUES: $3.00 per year payable on April 1 and pro-rated quarterly. All dues are payable in advance and remittances should be made out to the Ancient Coin Club of America and forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer.

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EDITORIAL

The word, numismatics, is very freely used these days. One can discover that there are professional numismatists who on close examination are people engaged in selling coins of all descriptions, numismatists who own complete collections of Lincoln cents and recently a dealer who sells rolls and larger quantities of current U. S. coinage humbly announced that he was a leading authority on numismatics. The conclusion seems inescapable that anyone who holds coins for any reason is a numismatist.

Your editor is rather a naive fellow. He always thought numismatics was a science, a particular branch of archaeology which dealt with coins. He always thought that professional numismatists were men, who after suitable preparation, devoted their careers to the study of coins.

The historian who attempts to understand the ancient world finds himself baffled when he comes to the economic conditions which prevailed in Greece or Rome. The ancient authors themselves are quite silent on these matters. The diligent student then turns to the only and best remaining evidence of the ancient economy, the coins. He looks to, of all things, the numismatist for data in this area of study.

Your naive editor fails to perceive just how the coin dealer, lincoln cent collector or teletype hustler is in any position to assist fresh historical research into the past.

There are many reasons why people collect coins and we are not going to upbraid the person who enjoys collecting U. S. coinage. We would rather encourage him to expand his interests and to look over the horizon to the wide world around him. Perhaps we can even give him the fatal glimpse of the fascination of the coins of the ancients and the mighty civilizations of the past.

We would like to see the word, numismatics, reserved for the serious study of ancient coinage. We would like to feel that the title of numismatist is never conferred upon ones self but rather is given to a student of coins

by his colleagues in recognition of his work and accomplishments in the field.

Most of the members of the ACCA are collectors of ancient coins. They have been bitten by the bug, the great sense of history and drama that comes from holding a coin which could have been used by a Socrates or a Caesar. They are forced, as no other collectors are, to become students of the coins they own. As they study and learn they are able to contribute to the science of numismatics.

We fondly hope that the great cooperative effort of the ACCA, while providing enlightenment and enjoyment to people with a common interest, may also contribute something fresh and enduring to the understanding of history. Perhaps too, some of us may through our efforts earn the honored accolade of numismatist.

John Hartman FN

Editor:

Weighing Rings of Precious Metal, c. 15th Century BC.

President's Message

Putting a publication together is a give and take proposition. The more a person puts into it, the more each receives. The VOICE OF THE TURTLE intends to put more intelligent energy into each new issue to help you enjoy your hobby more.

What is the role of the VOICE OF THE TURTLE? It is the communication of information directly related to ancient and medieval coins and the collection of them. Much information is already in the possession of long-time collectors who are also serious students of specialized subjects. "Neophytes" are continuously being enrolled as members - most are eager and sincere in their desires and efforts to learn more about ancient and medieval coins and their collection of them.

It is the purpose and duty of the VOICE OF THE TURTLE to help join the experienced and the eager to learn. The VOICE OF THE TURTLE will contain many articles which are primarily aimed at helping both the experienced and inexperienced in as many ways as possible. Our readers are those who have an active bona-fide interest in ancient and medieval coins or are able to assist such persons through supplying them with coins, books, supplies and accessories.

Previous issues of the VOICE OF THE TURTLE were remarkable well received and read. Even though there has been a period of time during which publication was impossible, the magazine is now being mailed out on its regular schedule. During the period in which the VOICE OF THE TURTLE failed to appear members remained loyal and patient. This is a most powerful indication of the acceptance and desire for the VOICE OF THE TURTLE. It also vividly indicates the need for the continuance of the ANCIENT COIN CLUB OF AMERICA.

It is physically impossible to thank all those who have written to express their appreciation and offer their support. Your officers sincerely appreciate your confirmation that the ACCA and the "Turtle" fulfill a great need.

 The President

Club News

DUES: You will notice that a dues increase to $3.00 has been published in this issue. This, I am sure, is recognized by all as a necessity if the club is to continue to serve the membership and meet the future goals of the ACCA.

Dues are payable effective April 1, 1965 for the 1965-66 year. Statements are being prepared now by the secretary-treasurer and will be mailed probably in March. All dues remitted for the 1964-65 year will be applied to the 1965-66 dues. All advance payments of two dollars received in the last two months will be credited toward the 1965-66 year. Because our records are deficient we must trust to each member to advise what amount he submitted for the 1964-65 year. Space for this will be provided on the dues statement.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS: Material is becoming available for publication that is beyond the scope of the "Voice of the Turtle". This consists of longer papers by specialists which the club intends to publish in proper form as funds become available. More of this as work progresses.

LOCAL AFFILIATES: Calvin Woods is currently soliciting ACCA members in the Twin City area for their views of forming a local affiliate. Those who have indicated an interest favor a monthly or bi-monthly meeting of the symposium type. No additional dues would be collected, no business meeting, auction or bourse would be contemplated. The meeting would consist of one or two short prepared talks and perhaps each participant would bring one coin to show and discuss. Those attenting would contribute to cover costs of refreshments.

Joel Malter feels that there is room for two such affiliates on the West coast in California. People in that area who are interested should contact Joel.

Club members who would like to form a local affiliate and who would like assistance may write to the club officers. This must largely be an organizational job undertaken by someone on the local scene who is interested and willing to do the work. Anyone so interested may have the names of other ACCA members in his area. We will continue to report activity in this direction.

OFFICERS FOR 1965-66: Correspondence among the members of the executive board and committee chairmen as well as the membership at large indicates a strong feeling that our present officers should be retained in office for another term.

Each member has a right to express himself on this subject and should contact the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Mr. Harold Roepe. If you wish to nominate a person for office, be sure that that person is willing to serve.

VOICE OF THE TURTLE: The ACCA is supposed to serve those who collect ancient and medieval coins. One reading the "Turtle" might well question where the medieval comes in. The April issue is to be devoted almost entirely to this subject. Your editor asks that all members who have an interest in this area begin now to prepare material for inclusion in the April issue. Advertisers are asked to take note also of this special issue.

Later in the year, tentatively in October, we hope to produce an issue which will concentrate on Byzantine coinage.

NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS: If you know of anyone who might be interested in the ACCA send his name and address to the Editor. We will send three complimentary issues of the "Voice of the Turtle". The nominee will be sent a form letter outlining the history and purposes of the ACCA and an invitation to join the club.

AUCTION: Please note that the auction is now scheduled bi-monthly. The work involved is voluntary and quite detailed. This move relieves some of that work load.

Special Notice

If you are receiving the "Voice of the Turtle" for the first time it is because your name has been supplied to us by a collector of ancient coins who felt you would be interested in the ACCA.

We offer you this issue of the "Voice of the Turtle" with the compliments of the Editor and officers of the Ancient Coin Club of America. You will receive two more issues at our expense so that you will have an opportunity to appraise the club and its publication.

We would like to extend our formal invitation to join the ACCA, and will be contacting you personally in the near future. Feel most free to write to us with any questions comments or suggestions you might have. We hope you enjoy receiving the "Voice of the Turtle"

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HERB BRABANDT is attempting to make a comprehensive study of modern forgeries of ancient coins. He hopes ultimately to assemble enough material to publish a book on this subject.

The ACCA policy with regard to forgeries is very rigid and severe and we have urged members to destroy fake coins which they possess.

We now suggest that this material be forwarded to Mr. Brabandt at 3120 Roselawn Blvd., Louisville, Kentucky 40220. He guarentees that such material will go no further. He will also acknowledge many of those who assist him in his study when published.

A study such as this can be of great importance for the detection of forgeries and as a means of educating collectors in the various types of fake coins that are found.

Anyone who can assist Mr. Brabandt in this project is urged to do so.

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Help is needed to begin compiling the ACCA library. If you can or will assist, please contact Mr. Colbert.

THE FORUM

As in ancient Rome where the affairs of business and state were debated in the Forum, the "Voice of the Turtle" asks that members write us their views. These will be published for open consideration and discussion.

As a point of departure and a means of generating controversy we present 18 challenges sent by a member.

1. Did gold coinage serve as a medium of exchange?-Did it circulate?-To what extent?
2. What was the velocity of circulation of gold?
3. Was the denarius, despite various debasements, tariffed to and redeemable at a fixed ratio to gold?
4. If denarii were token in nature were they struck so many to the pound as bronze evidently was or was each flan weighed?
5. How did the mint receive bullion?
6. How did the government control the bullion market?
7. How was coined money placed in circulation?
8. Did the mint charge a fee-did it profit on its own operation?
9. Did the government control rates of exchange between imperial money and authorized local currencies?
10. To what extent did Rome have developed banking and financial enterprises?
11. At whom was the propaganda on the coins aimed?
12. What part did money play in the ancient economy?
13. Why does the coinage often appear to be under such loose control?
14. What is the genuine meaning of SC? If the Senate had no monetary authority, why was the SC retained?
15. Do we over-emphasize reverse types? Would we want an archaeologist of the future to reconstruct our history from postage stamps? Are we doing this same thing with Roman coins?
16. What is the place of the local currencies in the state economic and monetary system?
17. What are the meanings of the marks XI, XXI, XCVI which appear on third century coins?
18. What denominations of coins are represented by the bewildering array of bronze coins of the late 3rd and early 4th centuries?

in Review . . .

Hill, G. F., ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN COINS, Argonaut Inc. Chicago, Illinois, $10.00, 302 pages, 16 plates.

There are many booklets and pamphlets published in the last few years which purport to introduce a beginner to Greek or Roman coins. Most of these are of limited value and good sound works such as those by Barclay Head and the present book have long been out of print and difficult to obtain. This reprint of Hill will be very welcome to the numismatic fraternity.

Hill's handbook is still the only comprehensive work in one volume that treats Greek and Roman coins together. It provides both a sound basic grounding in ancient numismatics for the beginner and a handbook of continual reference for the more advanced collector.

Although first published in 1899, the scholarship is so sound that very little of Hill's work has been superseded. This book is still frequently cited in serious numismatic studies.

While no handbook can be used to attribute individual coins, and is not designed for that purpose, the information contained in the work is sufficient to permit the reader to generally classify a coin both as to probable source and date of origin.

Hill was a distinguished numismatist associated for years with the British Museum's department of coins and medals. His book discusses the origin of coinage, the metals used by the ancients, how the ancients protected against forgery and methods used to create coins. Also treated is epigraphy and methods of dating, general classification of coins by place of issue and a section on designers, fabric and style. In addition to this full treatment of technical details, Hill also discusses coinage and the state, and the monetary theory and practice of the people of antiquity.

The book contains an appendix of ancient coin standards,

a table of equivalent weights and a full listing of the Roman Imperial Families. There are two bibliographies; the first that of Hill and the second added and updated by the publishers. Together these bibliographies alone are worth the price of the book.

Hill's original 15 plates have been clearly reproduced and the publishers have added a 16th plate showing examples of ancient art that has been lost except for the preservation of miniature examples on coins.

JEH

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Lawrence, Richard Hoe, THE PADUANS, MEDALS BY GIOVANNI CAVINO, Hellenic-Roman coins, Hewitt, New Jersey, $1.50 31 pages, 3 illustrations.

Giovanni Cavino, an Italian medallist of the Renaissance imitated Roman coins in Silver and Bronze. These were made in the city of Padua thus giving rise to the name, Paduans.

This book thoroughly catalogs seventy six imitations of Roman coins and thirty seven medals.

The coins are very difficult to detect and in many cases, were better than the original coins they duplicated. As they are fairly common, many collectors will have one or two pieces in their possession.

This is the only work available on this subject.

JOHN AIELLO

Imhcof-Blumer, F, and Gardner, Percy, edited by Oikonomides, Al N., ANCIENT GREEK COINS ILLUSTRATING LOST MASTERPIECES OF GREEK ART, Argonaut Inc. Chicago, Illinois, $10.00, lxxx + 176 pages, 39 plates, 1 map.

In the second century AD, a Greek predecessor of Lowell Thomas called Pausanias travelled widely throughout Greece and wrote a description of the country and what he observed. Through this text we are given descriptions of ancient art that has since been lost.

The great Imhoof-Blumer and Percy Gardner who was associated with the British Museum collaberated to produce a book entitled a NUMISMATIC COMMENTARY ON PAUSANIAS. This work describes in detail how the authors studied Greek coins and found that some of the types were miniature versions of some of the art treasures described by Pausanias.

The present volume is an enlarged and revised edition of the NUMISMATIC COMMENTARY OF PAUSANIAS. In addition to the work of Imhoof-Blumer and Gardner, Mr. Oikonomides has included a translation of the texts of Pausanias and has also written a seperate chapter "Commentary on the coins of Athens"

We are fortunate that the Greeks chose to portray some of their finest art in miniature on their coins. The original statues, sculptures and architectural monuments have long since been lost, but the coins which were struck after these treasures are still available. Thus the numismatist, architect, archaeologist, artist and historian can all see today miniature models of the lost achievements of antiquity.

This book is an invaluable guide to Greek art as reproduced on coins. It is copiously illustrated. Hundreds of coins as well as well as statuary and sculpture which have been identified by the authors from the Pausanias descriptions.

JEH

NUMISMATIC LITERATURE, Aquarterly publication of the American Numismatic Association. Issue of October 1964, $.50, years subscription, $2.00.

This regular publication of the ANS is distributed free to members and we wish to draw the attention of non-members of the ANS to the fact that this periodical is obtainable either on a single copy or annual subscription basis.

NUMISMATIC LITERATURE attempts to sumarize quarterly all work that has been published in the last three months in all areas of numismatics. It is not only of vital importance to specialists wishing to be informed of what is published but also to anyone who desires to know what is published abroad.

SPECIFIC GRAVITY IN COIN TESTING

One way in which collectors can help themselves with the problem of fake ancient silver is to familiarize themselves with the use of specific gravity measurements.

Archimedes is first reputed to have discovered this method of determining the relative content of metals in an alloy by measuring the amount of water displaced by an immersed object. The principle still bears his name.

A collector wishing to make use of this method should first study ANS monograph No. 124, THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF PARTHIAN COINS (1955) by Earle R. Caley. Dr. Caley's work was done very painstakingly. For the purpose of studying genuineness only, a somewhat less rigorous regime may be used.

Since collectors do not ordinarily possess the equipment normally used for specific gravity determinations, he can usually find that a friendly high school or college instructor would both permit use of the equipment and even help in the procedure.

Pure silver has a density or specific gravity of 10.5; copper of 8.9. Practically all ancient alloys used in silver coins up through the 1st century AD were 90% silver and 10% copper. The copper and silver used was relatively pure.

If the specific gravity determination of such a coin is above 10.5 or below 8.9 in would,(except in unusual circumstances) be suspect.

With a precision weighing of about a milligram, the accuracy of silver content can be estimated to around 2% either way, which is good enough for our purpose. This is for a clean coin. If one does not clean his coins the accuracy will be less (due to surface corrosion and pits which contain air) but still indicative. Accuracy is improved on larger coins, such as tetradrachms.

If a coin is tested and has the right specific gravity

this is still no guarentee that the coin is genuine. A coin may still be a struck or cast forgery, or a forgery with the right density in some other metal and then plated. Coins produced by the modern casting techniques of vacumn or centrifugal casting are very difficult to detect and may be forged in the proper metal.

The specific gravity method is therefore, one tool in the arsenal for the elimination of forgeries. While a correct density reading does not fully eliminate the possibility that a coin is forged, it does serve to remove doubt on many of the fakes which now circulate. The collector must, of course, be familiar with fabric and style and should educate himself to study coins for surface and mint technique.

Many catalogs produced over the past few years have begun to list coins not only as to type detail and inscriptions but also as to weight and module (diameter). A careful collector should record this information on all the coins he possesses, correlating where possible with other published material. While carefully weighing a coin, a specific gravity determination involves only one further simple step.

by C. E. ROWE

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The importance of numismatics as evidence in the study of history is too often overlooked even by the people who usually work with ancient coins.

In his A POLITICAL HISTORY OF PARTHIA, Neilson Debevoise in outlining his sources comments on numismatic evidence as follows:

"The extensive and well published Parthian coinage is the basis on which any chronology of the rulers must rest."

"On the Indian frontier we must again depend upon coins and inscriptions, the uncertain dating of which makes their use peculiarly difficult."

THE CLASSIFICATION OF ROMAN IMPERIAL COINAGE

When studying one of the comprehensive works on the coins of the Roman Empire such as Cohen, the BRITISH MUSEUM CATALOG or Mattingly and Sydenham's, ROMAN IMPERIAL COINAGE, it is easy to assume that the entire corpus of Roman coins is contained in these three works.

Actually, these works treat for the most part, the "official" or "Imperial" coinage. This "official" coinage constitutes only a small portion of the total emissions of the Empire and the bulk of the coins produced during the Imperial period are uncataloged, unclassified and for the most part unstudied. We hesitate to add that they are also unrecognized by the majority of collectors.

The purpose of this article is to create a group of categories into which the various coins of the Imperial period may fall. By describing in gross detail how the classifications may be distinguished from each other it is hoped that people who deal with ancient coins will be led to an awareness of these coins and a desire to study them.

DATES:

To begin this discussion it is necessary to define the period within which we will work. 27BC is an effective commencement date. After this time there was little of the "Republican" denominations issued, and the official policy of the Roman government was becoming matured.

Our period must close between 235 and 263 AD. During this time the coinage as a whole collapsed, the eastern mints ceased their activity and a new era in Roman coins began. While the antoninianus was introduced prior to the terminal date of 235 it was initially an acceptable coin which circulated side by side with denarii. It is after 235 that the antoninianus gradually displaces all other denominations of "official" coinage.

Essentially then we are looking at the emissions of the

Roman Empire during the "Principate" when the central government was stable and powerful and while economic affairs can be studied with some degree of reliability.

THE "OFFICIAL" OR IMPERIAL COINAGE

The emperors jealously held the privilege of coining in silver and gold as an imperial prerogative. With the exception of the Cistophori, all silver and gold issued during the period under consideration must be regarded as official. The bulk of silver coins were denarii and these were minted only at Rome or a mint that must be regarded as a branch of the Roman mint, Antioch for example.

Coinage in copper or orichalcum though bearing the SC was also under imperialcontrol. Most historians feel that the SC was merely a sop to the Senate which had no effective privileges regarding currency or monetary policy.

The bulk then of the "official" or Imperial coinage is Aurei in gold, denarii in silver, sestertii and dupondii in orichalcum and as in copper or bronze. These coins for any given reign are relatively uniform as to size and weight and fairly well distinguishable by style. They are most thoroughly cataloged and described in the three works mentioned above.

THE ALEXANDRIAN COINAGE

Egypt must be regarded as a special situation throughout the imperial period. The mint at Alexandria coined for the province, and other imperial money rarely circulated there. Egyptian money did not circulate outside the country.

This is not to construe that the Alexandrian issues were not official since Egypt was an imperial province and its administration was reserved to the emperor and his agents alone.

Nevertheless, this coinage is entirely different from the Imperial coinage.

The old Greek standards were followed, thus the emissions were tetradrachms (usually) and obols and fractions of the obol. The tetradrachms (and occassional didrachms and drachmae) were in billon. The obols were bronze.

The coinage is easily distinguished. The obverses bear the imperial portrait and greek legends. The reverse types may be of Greek, Roman or Egyptian origin or a mixture of these. The coins are all dated by regnal year and by and large this dating makes it easy to distinguish between Alexandrian and other "Greek Imperial" issues.

These coins are fully cataloged and described in Vogt's work (see note).

CISTOPHORI [2]

The cistophorus was originally a Greek coin, weighing as much as a tetradrachm but struck on a somewhat larger and thinner flan. The name occurs because of the "cista" or box from which a snake emerges as part of the coin type. It is believed that these were issued with religious significance, though the place of the Greek cistophori in the general picture of greek coins is not fully agreed upon.

Antony issued cistophori while he was in the East prior to 31 BC. These were the conventional type with cista and snake. After Actium, Augustus issued cistophori presumably to compete with the issues of Antony. This precedent of issuing tetradrachm sized silver continued sporadically down through the reign of Hadrian. Gradually the cista disappeared as a type to be replaced by Roman reverses.

We must presume that these coins could only have been issued with express authority from the emperor. Their appearance was sporadic, the issues were usually small, and there seems to be some correlation between an emperor's activities in the east and the issuance of the cistophori.

Nevertheless, the place of the cistophori is not understood. There is much doubt that they were intended to circulate as coins.

The cistophorus is distinguishable in bearing the imperial portrait and almost always greek legends. Reverse types are usually Roman and the coin is easily distinguished as a tetradrachm.

THE COLONIAL COINS

Roman colonies had coining privileges. Their issues are distinguishable from the "Imperial" coins by size. All colonial coins are in bronze and smaller than the as. We have no idea of the denomination of these coins, nor how they were tariffed in relation to the imperial issues.

The colonial issues are distinguishable from the "Greek Imperials" in that they have latin legends.

(As a sub-classification, two or three cities with municipal status had the right to issue coins. The author owns a coin of Caracalla with the reverse legend "MUNIC STOBEII")

THE GREEK IMPERIALS [3]

This last category comprises the bulk of the coin types issued under the Roman empire. Somewhere in excess of 500 cities throughout the east issued coins at some time during the period we are discussing.

These coins are always in bronze and never on the imperial standard. They vary a good deal in size with one another. The author owns a coin from Chamasoto in Mesopotania with a module of 27 mm (nearly as large as an as) and others with modules as low as 17 mm.

The Greek Imperials bear the imperial portrait with Greek legends. Many bear the mint city of origin. Reverse types are usually Greek.

We have no idea of the area in which these were intended to circulate but finds seem to indicate that for the most part they were struck for local small change needs. We have no idea of denominations or how the coins were tariffed in terms of the imperial coinage.

by JOHN E. HARTMANN

NOTES:

1. The Alexandrian Coinage is fully done in DIE ALEXANDINISCHEN MUNZEN of Joseph Vogt.

   See also the "Voice of the Turtle" Vol 3, No. 2, Nov. 1964 for additional bibliography.

2. The only major study of the cistophori is UBER DIE CISTOPHOREN UND DIE KAISERLICHE SILBERMEDAILLONS DER ROMISCHEN PROVINZ ASIA published in 1855 by M. Pinder. A modernized treatment is published by A. M. Woodward in ESSAYS PRESENTED TO HAROLD MATTINGLY, published in 1956 entitled, "The Cistophoric Series and its Place in the Roman Coinage"

3. Treatment of the Greek Imperials can be found in ESSAYS PRESENTED TO HAROLD MATTINGLY by A. R. Bellinger in a work entitled, "Greek Coins under the Roman Empire"

   A scholarly and thought provoking essay is Tom B. Jones, "A Numismatic Riddle: The So-Called Greek Imperials" published in the procedings of the American Philosophical Society, Vol 107, No. 4, Aug. 1963.

   Some of the individual cities that minted have been thoroughly done and published. Examples are Noe's THE COINAGE OF METAPONTUM (ANS monographs #32 & 47) and K. O. Castelin's , THE COINAGE OF RHESANA IN MESOPOTAMIA (ANS monograph #108).

Typical reverse of Greek cistophorus

AUCTION INFORMATION

1. Coins placed on auction should be properly attributed and graded. A reserve price, if desired, should be plainly stated. Failure to provide all information with the coin will result in its being delayed on the auction. The auctioneer is entitled to a fee for grading and attributing coins.
2. The Club assumes no responsibility for loss of coins. Every precaution will be taken to assure their safe-keeping.
3. Club commission on coins submitted for auction is 10% of the sale price. The Club assumes the costs of postage and insurance.
4. The next auction will appear in the March issue. Coins should be in the hands of the auctioneer no later than February 1.

NOTE TO BIDDERS:

Bid what you think the lot is worth to you. Bids must equal the reserve if any.

Winning bids will be scaled down to 10% over next highest bid

No bids are accepted as "open" or 10% over next high bid. Bid a specific amount.

Please do not send checks with bids. It causes unnecessary expense to return. Winning bidders will receive coins via parcel post, insured. Please remit promptly after receiving coins.

All coins are graded according to experienced judgement. There is always room for honest disagreement over condition thus returns are permitted so long as this privilege is not abused and the approval of the auctioneer is obtained. No returns are to be made <u>without</u> prior correspondence with the auctioneer.

Send all bids and coins directly to the auctioneer.

JOEL MALTER ... BOX 777 ... VENICE, CALIFORNIA

* * *

LOT NO. RESERVE

GREEK SILVER

1. ITALY, Thurium, c. 400BC. Stater 7.5 gm. Head of Athena to r./Bull to r. BMC, p287, #2. Weakly struck in part. VF 30.00
2. MACEDON, Neapolis, 411-350BC. ½ drachm, 1.5 gm facing head of Gorgon./Head of Nike r. BMC #15 p85. Most desirable, VF 21.00
3. _____, Eion, 5th Century BC, Obol. .9 gm Swan r. lizard above./ Incuse. A charming little coin. BMC 9, Flan slightly bent. F+ 12.00
4. ATTICA, Athens, New style 4dr. 140 BC 16.5 gm Athena head r./ Owl on amphora. Th[illegible]en 915 Reverse weakly struck, VF/F 35.00
5. ILLYRICUM, Apollonia, 229-100 BC. Drachm, 3gm Cow./ Linear floral pattern. Seaby 804 F 3.00
6. MYSIA, Pergamum, 200-133 BC. Cistophoria 4dr 12. gm. usual type. symbol: Caduceus, BMC 94-125. VF (worth 30.00) 19.00
7. PAMPHLIA, Aspendus, 400-300BC Stater 10.7 gm Two wrestlers, slinger. BMC 57, var. Off center a bit, still VF, a nice coin 32.00
8. SYRIA, Philip, 92-83 BC. 4dr. 16.2 gm. Laur. hd of Philip to r. / Zeus seated l. Babelon 1549 Cleaned, some pitting, F 15.00
9. PERSIA, 400 BC Siglos 5.4 gm. Great King kneeling, running attitude, holds bow and dagger. / Incuse BMC 11 crude VG+ 6.00
10. PARTHIA, Gotarzes, 40-51 AD. Drachm. Bust l./ Arsaces std. Petr. 16. Struck typically off center. F 3.00
11. _____, Mithradates VI, 116 AD, drachm, similar to above, Petr. 1, F+ 3.00
12. SASSANIAN, Chosroes II, dies 627 AD. Dirhem, bust r./ Fire altar. de Morgan LXXIV, 2. An interesting series, choice VF 3.00
13. TABARISTAN, Mihatbi, 791 AD. type as above BMC 296, EF 3.00

14. INDIA, Western Satraps, 100-300 AD. Drachm, Bust r. / Insc. IMC 11. An interesting but remote series. Rare and F 4.00
15. EGYPT, Ptolemy VIII, c. 150 BC. 4dr, 12.7 gm Salamis mint. Usual type with bust of Ptolemy and eagle. BMC 19, slightly oxidized, F 13.00

ROMAN BRONZE AND SILVER

16. ANTONIA, AE dupondius, Bust r. / Claudius Stg. C 6, VG 8.00
17. TIBERIUS, AR, Denarius, the so called tribute penny, Seaby 467, F 28.00
18. GAIUS, (Caligula) AR, Den. struck on Crete, Bust r. / Bust of Augustus, radiate, r. Sovoronos 32.4 Very rare. Fair only but portraits are clear 19.00
19. CLAUDIUS, AE, As, Bust r. / Minerva. C 84 F+ 9.00
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21. NERO, AE As, Bust l. / Victory to l. C 288, F 4.00
22. _____, AE, As, Bust r. / Temple of Janus C 171 Magnificent portrait of Nero, rev slightly oxidized. EF+/F 20.00
23. GALBA, AE, As, Bust r. / Liberty RIC 59. There is an error in the reverse inscription. POM TRP instead of PON TRP! VG 6.00
24. VITELLIUS, AR, Den. Bust r. / Tripod C 111 Good portrait, most of inscription intact 11.00
25. VESPASIAN, AE, As, Bust r. / Altar C 400 G 2.00
26. TITUS, AE, Dup. Bust r./ Felicity C 86. Flan crack from striking but nice portrait 14.00
27. HADRIAN, AE, Sertertius. Bare head r. / Spes RIC 790. Nice portrait 7.00
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30. _____, AE, Sest. Bust r. / Concord Stg. RIC 943b, F/VG 6.00
31. MARCUS AURELIUS, AR, Den. Bust r. / ARMEN, Armenia std l. RIC 81, VF/F 7.00
32. FAUSTINA II, AE, Sest. Bust r. / Pudicitia stg. C 180 G/F 3.50
33. LUCIUS VERUS, AE, Sest. Bust r. / Emperors shaking hands. C 36. F/Mediochre 5.00

34. LUCILLA, AE, As. Bust r. / Venus std l. holding Victory. C86, Desirable coin F 5.00
35. COMMODUS, AE, Dup. Rad. Bust r. / Annona stg. VG 3.00
36. SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS, AE, Sest. Bust r. / Africa RIC 688, Rare, VG 9.00
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38. ELAGABALUS, AR, Den. Bust r. / Sol C154, VF 5.00
39. JULIA DOMNA, AE, Sest. Bust r. / Cybele Std. RIC 859, Very rare, VG 12.00
40. DIADUMENIAN, AE, AS, Bust r. / Prince stg. C 8 Very rare, nice portrait, VG/Fair 13.00
41. Three Roman bronze colonials. Fair to Fine 3.00

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42. JOHN ZIMISCES, (Byzantine), 969-976 AD. AE Follis. Ratto p. 98. Bust of Christ / Inscription. Fair 1.50
43. BYZANTINE, unattributed scyphate, c. 1000 AD Fair only .75
44. FRANCE, Vienne, denier. 1285 AD. St Maurice / Cross. Poey d'Avant 4826. Nice F .75
45. Lot of two unattributed medieval silver coins VG 2.00

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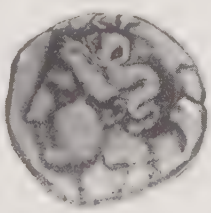

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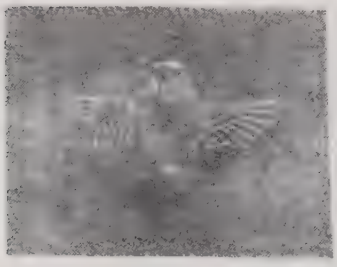

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ROMAN SILVER TETRADRACHMS

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31.	NERO, portrait / Jupiter. F-VF/VG, $27.50;VF/EF	42.00
32.	VESPASIAN, Portrait / Pax EF and nice	21.50
33.	DOMITIAN, Portrait / Minerva M168, Nice VF	16.00

ROMAN BRONZE

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36.	TIBERIUS, DUP. Portrait / Caduceus VG	9.50
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40.	CLAUDIUS, Portrait / Spes stg. RIC 64, F-VF	36.00
41.	NERO, Portrait / Roma Std. F - $29.00; VF-EF	58.00
42.	GALBA, Portrait / Liberty stg. Nice fine	39.00
43.	_____, Portrait / Hispania Clunia, Rare VG	25.00
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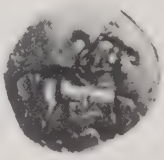

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We have just purchased an accumulation of books and auction catalogs on all aspects of coinage amassed over a 50 year period. We have taken out everything on ancient coins and will get a list out soon. We would like to sell the balance of these books consisting of medieval, foriegn and US as one lot for $600.00. There are well over 1200 books involved and a good part of them never appear on the market as most dealers would keep them, themselves.

If you are interested, or know of a dealer or collector who would be, please call me for an appointment Pa 8-9049 so you can see this material first hand. I do not want to sell this lot through the mail because it would take too much time to pack and list.

For those of you who live in the New York-New Jersey area stop in and see us. We will have a large selection of coins on hand and we always have a large stock of books.

We are no longer accepting orders for Roman Imperial Coinage as it is now out-of-print. The Grose set on Greek coins is due also. Below is a list of books on sale for the month of January only.

COINAGE OF ROMAN BRITAIN ($2.50)	$2.00
HISTORY OF COINS AND SYMBOLS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL ($7.50)	4.50
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WHITMAN BOOKS	Twenty per cent off

We are expecting a large quantity of unidentified ancient coins as well as some choice material. Let us know if you are interested.

Muller's catalog on the Coinage of Alexander the Great is now available at $6.50. ANCIENT GREEK & ROMAN COINS by Hill and ANCIENT COINS OF GREEK ART by Imhoof-Blumer and Gardner available at $9.00 each.

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ROME P. Clodius, c 41 BC. Denarius. Head of Apollo right. lyre on left. Rx. DIANA LUCIFERA holding torch in each hand.
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meandering . . .

"There went out in those days, a decree from Caesar Augustus..." So begins the Christmas story with which we are all so familiar. Yet the words of Luke are held in warm regard for the beautiful story they tell and we tend to forget that it was the overshawdowing power of Rome that made events move in those days...

It is all a matter of relative time I suppose, but the United States has endured as a nation for less time than the Principate, less time than Athens in her glory, less time than that which spanned Scipio Africanus and Augustus. What a great and pregnant future can lie before us if we will only grasp it...

Lucretius said:

"This terror then, this darkness of the mind
Not sunrise with its flaring spokes of light
Nor glittering arrows of the morning can disperse
But only nature's aspect and her law
Which teaching us, hath this exordium:
Nothing from nothing ever yet was born."

Received a letter from a colleague in Texas who says she has never seen snow. I would be delighted to ship her a few thousand tons which I am sure must be the amount I shovelled off my sidewalk last night...

The editor's office is a mass of debris. Old papers, books piled high, loose coins, cuttings on the floor, still unwrapped christmas presents, pipes full of old ashes not shaken out, burnt matches, loose flakes of tobacco, scissors, a tube of glue, unanswered letters, calenders of both 1964 and 1965 and unaccountably a flat iron. Out of this must come the "Voice of the Turtle" ready for the printer. ..

Historians regard the invention of coined money as one of those great basic forward steps of mankind, in the same category as the discovery of the wheel and the alphabet...

May we conclude hopefully, "Finis coronat opus"...

ANCIENT COIN CLUB of AMERICA
John E. Hartmann, Editor
5107 39th Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minn. 55417

Vol. IV, No. 1

TO:

Eric P. Newman
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St. Louis, Mo. 63178